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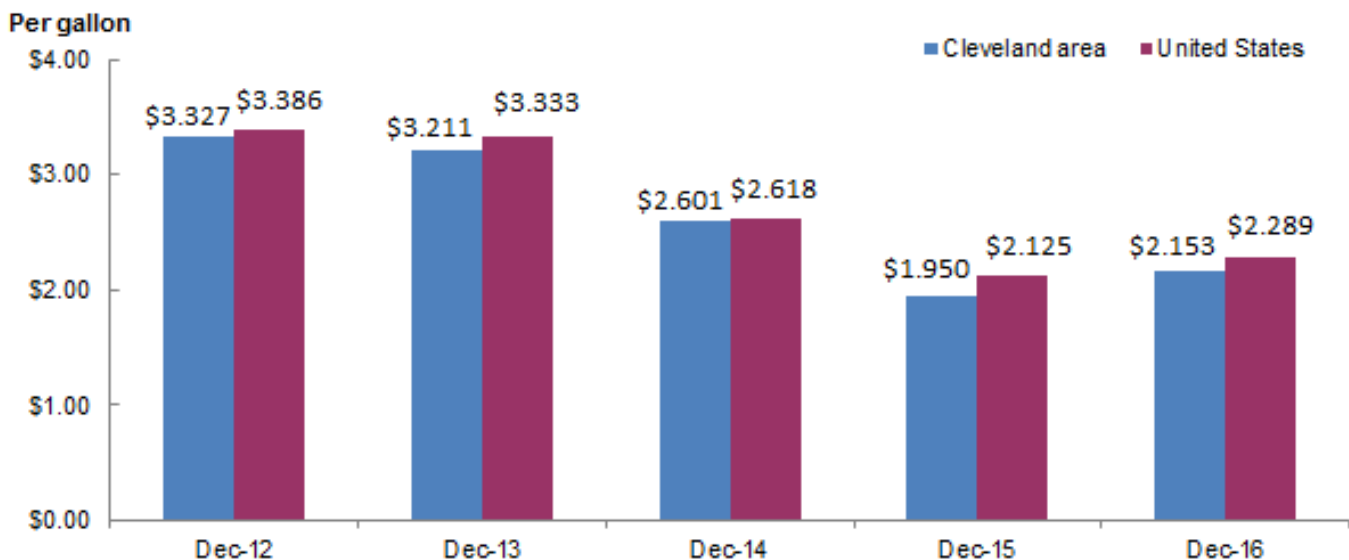
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## Average Energy Prices, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain — December 2016

Gasoline prices averaged \$2.153 a gallon in the Cleveland-Akron-Lorain area in December 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Charlene Peiffer noted that area gasoline prices were up 20.3 cents compared to December 2015 when they averaged \$1.950 per gallon. Cleveland area households paid an average of 11.6 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity in December 2016, 13.4 percent lower than the 13.4 cents per kWh paid in December 2015. Utility (piped) gas averaged 61.7 cents per therm in December, up from its average price of 50.9 cents per therm a year earlier. (Data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year-analysis is used throughout.)

At \$2.153 a gallon, costs for gasoline in the Cleveland area were 13.6 cents lower than the national average of \$2.289 in December 2016. With the exception of December 2014, when Cleveland area gasoline prices were comparable to than national average, Cleveland gasoline prices in the previous four years (2012-2015) in December were lower than national average, ranging from 5.9 cents to 17.5 cents less. (See [chart 1.](#))

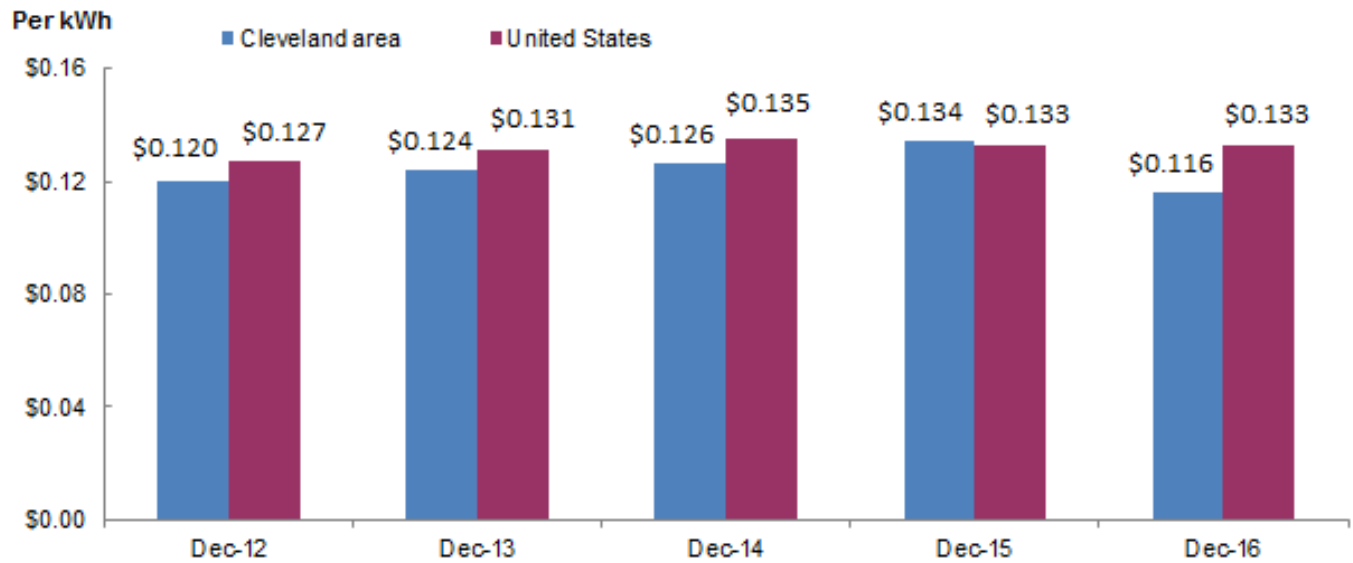
**Chart 1. Average prices for gasoline, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and the United States, 2012-2016 (as of December)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The 11.6 cents per kWh Cleveland households paid for electricity in December 2016 was 12.8 percent lower than the nationwide average of 13.3 cents during this same period. In the previous 4 years (2012-2015) in December, electricity costs in the Cleveland area were below the national average 3 times, ranging from 5.3 percent to 6.7 percent less. (See [chart 2.](#))

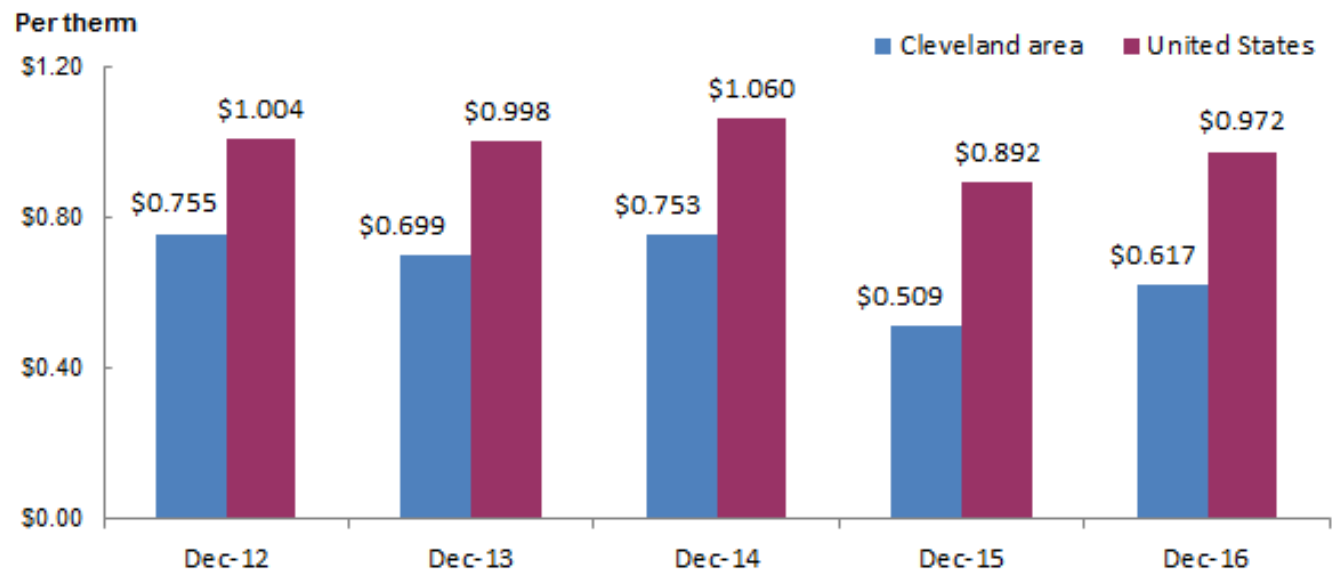
**Chart 2. Average prices for electricity, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and the United States, 2012-2016 (as of December)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Prices paid by Cleveland area consumers for utility (piped) gas, commonly referred to as natural gas, at 61.7 cents per therm, were 36.5 percent below the national average of 97.2 cents per therm in December 2016. Utility (piped) gas prices in the Cleveland area had been lower than the national average in the prior four years (2012-2015) in December, ranging from 24.8 percent lower in 2012 to 42.9 percent in 2015. (See [chart 3.](#))

**Chart 3. Average prices for utility (piped) gas, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and the United States, 2012-2016 (as of December)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The **Cleveland-Akron-Lorain, Ohio, Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area** consists of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit Counties in Ohio.

Historical average energy prices for the U.S. and select metropolitan areas are available at [www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices\\_selectedareas\\_table.htm](http://www.bls.gov/regions/midwest/data/averageenergyprices_selectedareas_table.htm).

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**The Consumer Price Index for January 2017 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 15, 2017.**

### **Technical Note**

Average prices are estimated from Consumer Price Index (CPI) data for selected commodity series to support the research and analytic needs of CPI data users. Average prices for electricity, utility (piped) gas, and gasoline are published monthly for the U.S. city average, the 4 regions, the 3 population size classes, 10 region/size-class cross-classifications, and the 14 largest local index areas. For electricity, average prices per kilowatt-hour (kWh) are published. For utility (piped) gas, average prices per therm are published. For gasoline, the average price per gallon is published. Average prices for commonly available grades of gasoline are published as well as the average price across all grades.

All eligible prices are converted to a price per normalized quantity. These prices are then used to estimate a price for a defined fixed quantity. The average price per kilowatt-hour represents the total bill divided by the kilowatt-hour usage. The total bill is the sum of all items applicable to all consumers appearing on an electricity bill including, but not limited to, variable rates per kWh, fixed costs, taxes, surcharges, and credits. This calculation also applies to the average price per therm for utility (piped) gas.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

**Table 1. Average prices for gasoline, electricity, and utility (piped) gas, Cleveland-Akron-Lorain and the United States, December 2015 – December 2016, not seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Gasoline per gallon		Electricity per kWh		Utility (piped) gas per therm	
	Cleveland area	United States	Cleveland area	United States	Cleveland area	United States
<b>2015</b>						
December .....	\$1.950	\$2.125	\$0.134	\$0.133	\$0.509	\$0.892
<b>2016</b>						
January .....	1.909	2.034	0.138	0.134	0.529	0.898
February .....	1.666	1.833	0.138	0.134	0.539	0.895
March .....	1.980	2.021	0.139	0.134	0.519	0.884
April .....	2.136	2.196	0.139	0.134	0.487	0.879
May .....	2.368	2.324	0.139	0.133	0.503	0.877
June .....	2.532	2.422	0.130	0.138	0.516	0.891
July .....	2.270	2.287	0.127	0.139	0.531	0.931
August .....	2.155	2.218	0.127	0.139	0.615	0.943
September .....	2.161	2.269	0.119	0.139	0.596	0.954
October .....	2.135	2.304	0.120	0.134	0.616	0.961
November .....	2.079	2.246	0.119	0.131	0.620	0.970
December .....	2.153	2.289	0.116	0.133	0.617	0.972